Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment

Key Findings for Iraq

September 2020

CONTEXT

Iraq has suffered from multiple cycles of violence and displacement over the past decades. By the end of 2020, there remained 1.27 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), of which approximately 257,000 individuals resided in camps with approximately 1,000 more in informal sites and critical shelters. Furthermore, as of beginning of 2021, 4.8 million Iraqis have returned to their areas of origin, 200,000 of whom did so in 2020, in part triggered by government-led camp consolidations.[1] The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has further perpetuated existing vulnerabilities and exposed people to new risks.

The Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) provides an overview of humanitarian conditions through a collaborative exercise of collecting and analysing data on the type, severity, magnitude and variance of sectoral and multi-sectoral needs of conflict affected populations in Iraq. In 2020, the MCNA was conducted in Iraq for the eighth time, in close coordination with the Assessment Working Group (AWG), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG).

METHODOLOGY

Due to the serious health risks related to the COVID-19 pandemic and access restrictions related to government containment measures, data for the MCNA VIII was collected through a hybrid of face-to-face and phone-based household-level interviews. In the districts that could be surveyed in-person (24/62), findings are statistically representative with a confidence level of 90% and a margin of error of 10%. However, in all 40 formal IDP camps and in the districts that were surveyed remotely (38/62), findings are not statistically representative with a known level of precision and should be considered as indicative only.

By relying on indicators that were defined by Clusters and approved by the AWG, this factsheet outlines: a) the sectoral needs through the Living Standard Gaps (LSG) and the multi-sectoral needs through the Multi-Sectoral Needs Index (MSNI), based on composite indicators and a severity scoring approach, to provide an overview of households' needs, and b) contextual household characteristics on Pre-existing Vulnerabilities and Capacity Gaps (CG) to provide insight into households' exposure to shock and use of coping strategies that potentially interact with their unmet needs.

The methodology is further outlined in *Annex 1*, and *Annex 2* shows how the individual indicators inform the composite indicators and how households' LSGs and CGs were calculated.[2]

Assessment sample[3]

Households:	***9,634***
IDP in camp	*2,547*
IDP out of camp	*4,387*
Returnee	*2,700*
Governorates:	***16** (out of 18)*
Districts:	***62** (out of 120)*

Female-headed households: 10%

Average household size: 5.7

MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS

% of households with multi-sectoral needs:[4] 89%

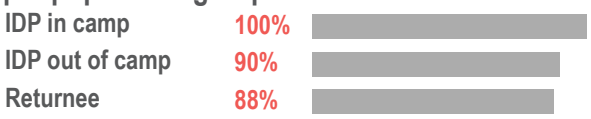
# of households with multi-sectoral needs:[5] 5,258,251

% of households per Multi-Sectoral Needs Index (MSNI) severity score:

68%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
21%	Severe	(severity score 3)
11%	Stress	(severity score 2)
0%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

Multi-sectoral needs

% of households with multi-sectoral needs, per population group:



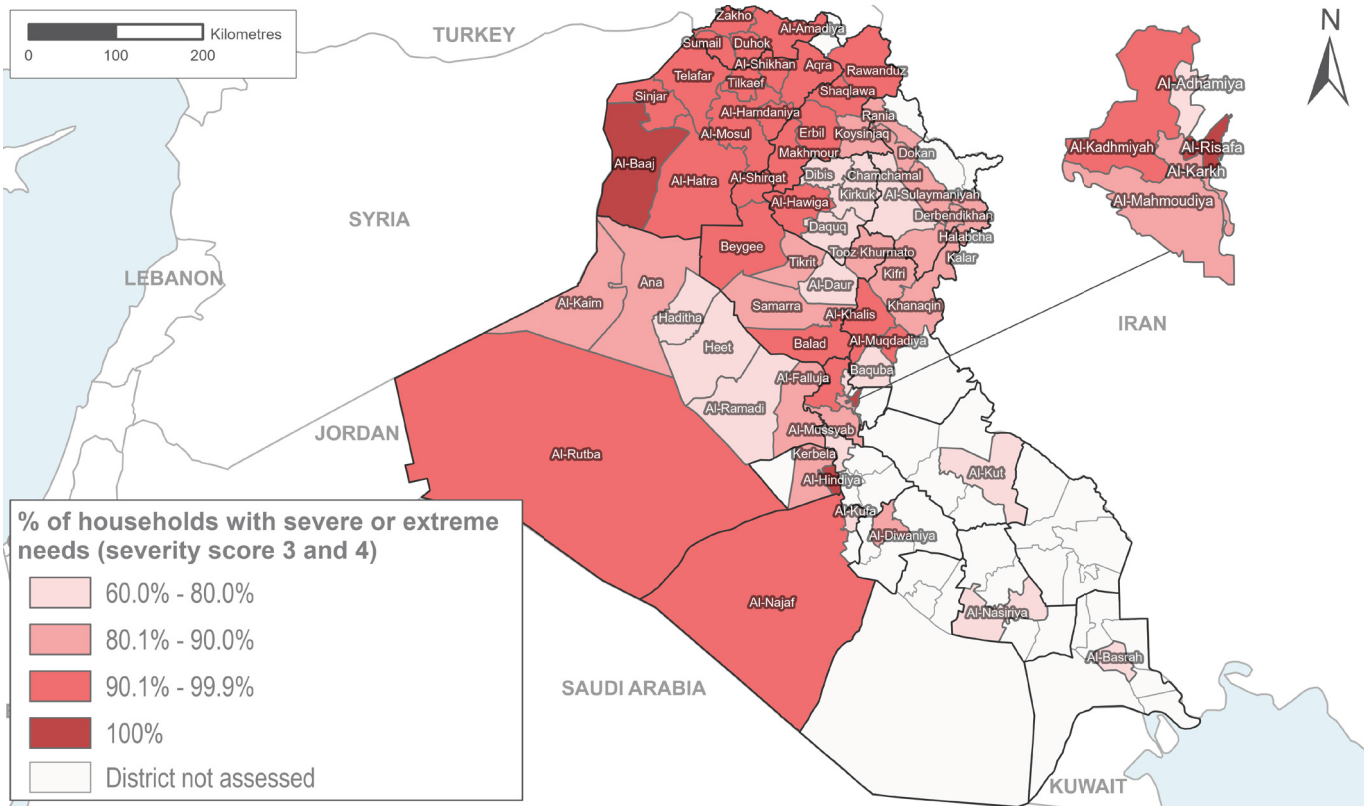
% of households per MSNI severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3	4
IDP in camp	0%	0%	1%	99%
IDP out of camp	0%	10%	14%	76%
Returnee	0%	12%	24%	64%

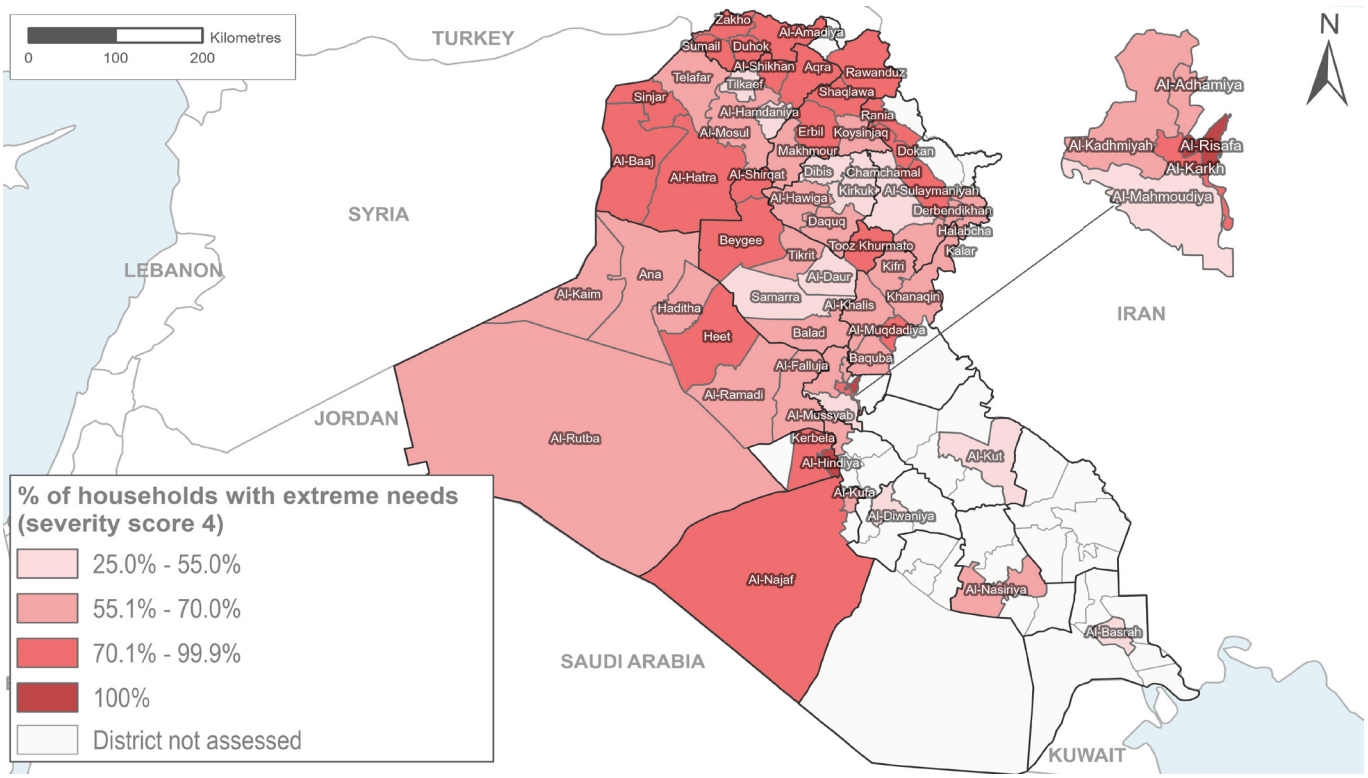
[1] Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2021, Iraq ; International Organization for Migration (IOM) Return Index Dataset.
[2] For further information on the methodology overview, please refer to Annex 1 on page 13.
[3] A household is a group of people who regularly share meals, income, and expenditures together. Members must acknowledge the authority of one person as head of household and that person must actually live with the rest of the household members. Households displaced from their sub-district between 2014-2017 but still living in Iraq are considered to be IDPs. Households displaced between 2014-2017 who have since returned to their sub-district are considered as returnees, as per IOM-DTM definitions.
[4] Multi-sectoral needs: proportion of households with an MSNI severity score of at least 3, based on the severity of LSGs identified in each household.
[5] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figures from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS

% of households with severe or extreme needs per district (MSNI severity score of at least 3):[1]



% of households with extreme needs per district (MSNI severity score of 4):



Each household with a severity score of 3 or more in the MSNI calculation is considered to have multi-sectoral needs. The map showing the % of households with a severity score of 3 or more therefore shows the scale of need in Iraq. The second map shows the % of households with a severity score of 4+, a very extreme score. It aims to highlight the areas where needs are the most acute.

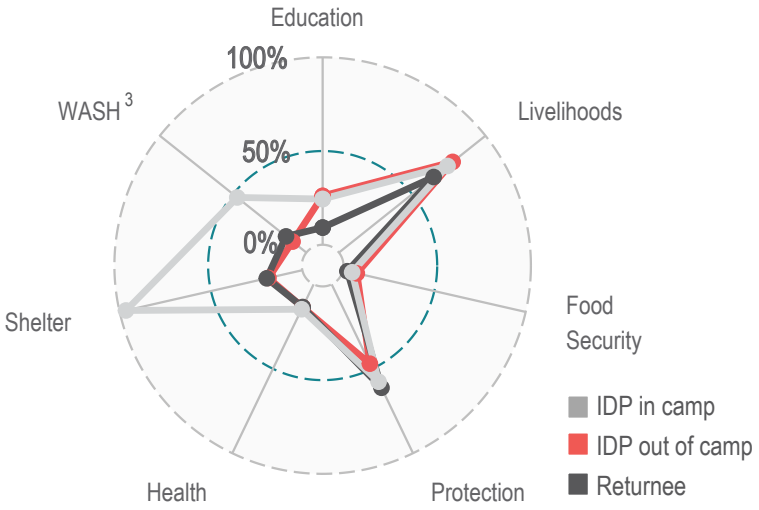
[1] "Severity" signifies the "intensity" of needs, using a scale that ranges from 1 (minimal/none) to 4 (extreme). Sixty percent (for severe or extreme needs) and twenty-five percent (for extreme needs) were the minimum percentages found. See Annex 2 for further details on the four point scale used for the severity classification.

MULTI-SECTORAL NEEDS

% of households per number of sectoral LSG(s)[1], per population group:

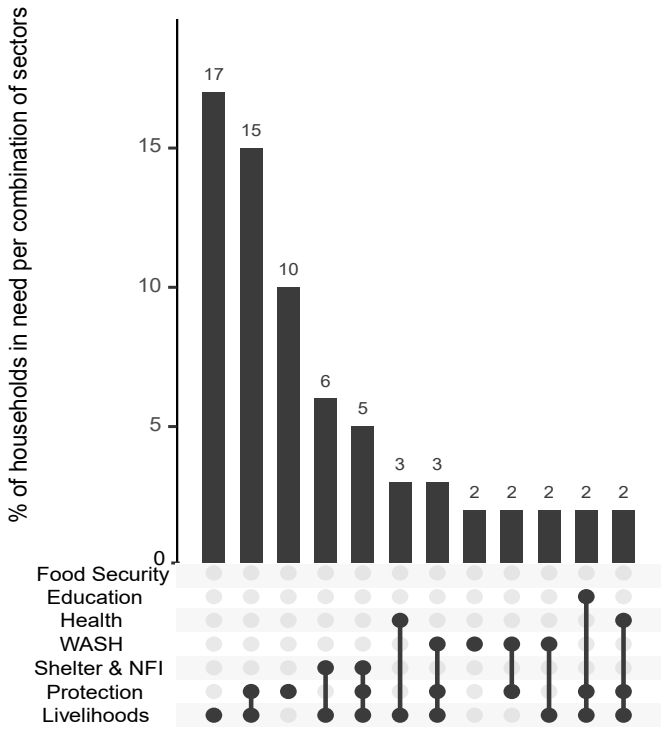
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
IDP in camp	0%	6%	25%	36%	25%	7%	1%
IDP out of camp	10%	33%	32%	17%	7%	1%	0%
Returnee	12%	32%	33%	16%	5%	1%	0%

% of households with sectoral LSG(s), per population group:



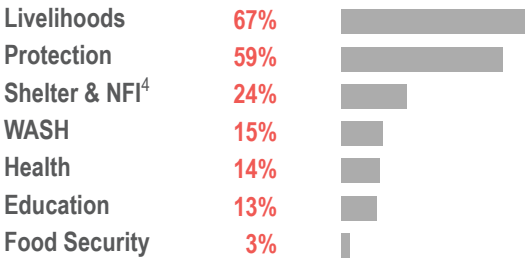
20% of households were found to have multi-sectoral needs and to be vulnerable.[2]

Most common combinations of one or more LSG(s):



The figure on the left shows the most common needs profiles, to identify the **most common "combinations" of one or more LSGs**. Each household has only one needs profile, therefore percentages cannot add up to more than 100%. The figure below shows the proportion of households in need **by type of LSGs,** to identify the **most commonly occurring LSGs**. Each household can have needs in several sectors, therefore the percentages can exceed 100%.

% of households with sectoral LSG(s):



Most common LSG profiles, per population group:

IDP in camp		IDP out of camp		Returnee	
Shelter & NFI	97%	Livelihoods	78%	Livelihoods	65%
Livelihoods	74%	Protection	47%	Protection	61%
Shelter and livelihoods	72%	Livelihoods and protection	31%	Livelihoods and protection	34%

[1] Living Standard Gap (LSG): where the LSG severity score is 3 or higher this signifies an unmet need in a given sector.
[2] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.
[3] WASH stands for Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene.
[4] NFI stands for Non-Food Items.

LIVELIHOODS LIVING STANDARDS GAP

% of households with a Livelihoods LSG:[1] 67%

# of households with a Livelihoods LSG:[2] 3,958,458

% of households per Livelihoods LSG severity score:

59%	Extreme	(severity score 4)	LSG
8%	Severe	(severity score 3)	LSG
8%	Stress	(severity score 2)	
25%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)	

% of households with a Livelihoods LSG, per population group:

IDP in camp	74%	
IDP out of camp	78%	
Returnee	65%	

The main drivers of Livelihoods LSGs were found to be:

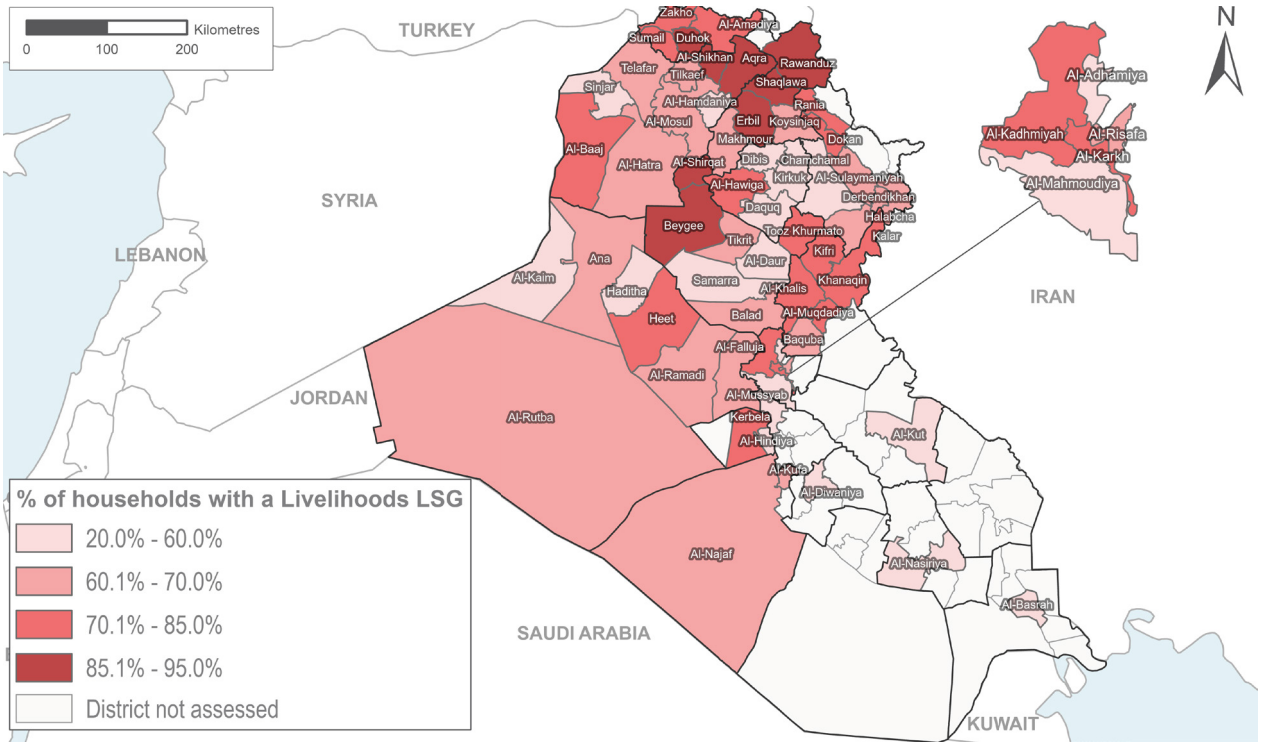
- % of households whose average monthly income from employment and pensions was less than 90,000 IQD per person a month (60%);
- % of households taking on debt due to healthcare, food, education, or basic household expenditure (59%), and;
- % of households with a debt which value exceeds 505,000 IQD.

% of households per Livelihoods LSG severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3	4
IDP in camp	20%	6%	6%	68%
IDP out of camp	15%	7%	9%	69%
Returnee	27%	8%	8%	57%

16% of households were found to have a Livelihoods LSG and to be vulnerable.[3]

% of households with a Livelihoods LSG, per district:



[1] The livelihoods composite indicator consists of the following indicators: % of households with at least one member in temporary employment; % of households with at least one adult (18+) unemployed and seeking work; % of households whose average monthly income from employment and pensions was less than 90,000 IQD per person a month; % of households with debt value above 505,000 IQD; % of household where at least one member has lost their job permanently or temporarily as a result of COVID-19, and % of households taking on debt due to healthcare, food, education, or basic household expenditure.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020). In addition, the calculation of the number of households with a given sectoral need may vary slightly according to the rounding being applied to the % of households with this given sectoral need. This remark applies to all numbers of households in this factsheet.

[3] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.

FOOD SECURITY LIVING STANDARDS GAP

MCNA | 2020
IRAQ

% of households with a Food Security LSG:[1] **3%**

# of households with a Food Security LSG:[2] **177,244**

% of households per Food Security LSG severity score:

2%	Extreme	(severity score 4)	LSG
1%	Severe	(severity score 3)	LSG
55%	Stress	(severity score 2)	
42%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)	

% of households with a Food Security LSG, per population group:

IDP in camp	5%	
IDP out of camp	8%	
Returnee	2%	

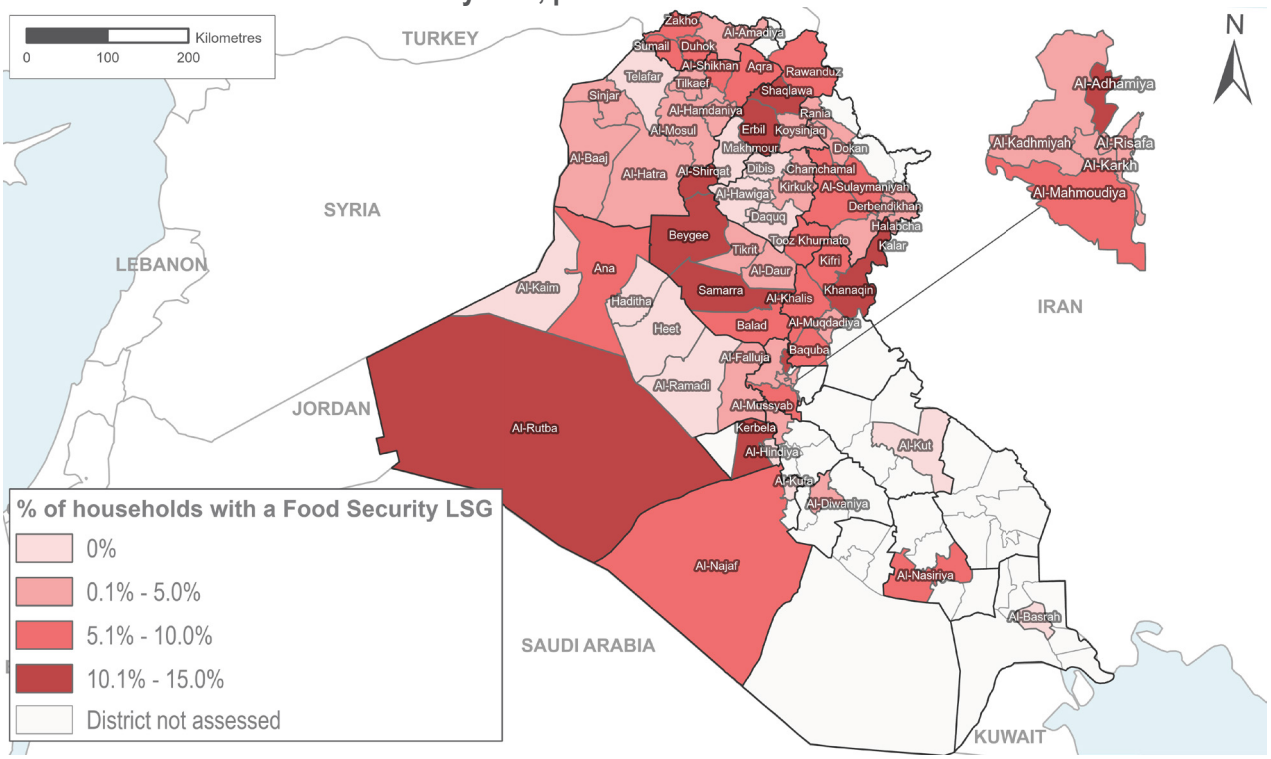
The main drivers of Food Security LSGs were found to be:
- % of households spending more than 65% of their total expenditure on food (55%);
- % of households with a 'borderline' or 'poor' Food Consumption Score (3%), and; [3]
- % of households with a 'moderate' to 'severe' (2-6) Household Hunger Scale (3%). [4]

% of households per Food Security LSG severity score, per population group:[5]

	1	2	3	4
IDP in camp	35%	60%	2%	3%
IDP out of camp	70%	22%	1%	7%
Returnee	36%	62%	1%	1%

1% of households were found to have a Food Security LSG and to be vulnerable.[6]

% of households with a Food Security LSG, per district:



[1] The food security LSG composite indicator consists of the following indicators: % of households with a 'borderline' or 'poor' Food Consumption Score; % of households spending more than 65% of their total expenditure on food, and % of households with a 'moderate' to 'severe' (2-6) Household Hunger Scale.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

[3] For more details on Food Consumption Score calculations, refer to the definition and data provided by the World Food Programme.

[4] For more details on Household Hunger Scale, refer to the guidance provided by the World Food Programme (2011).

[5] Our findings differ from food security findings in the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), which highlight urgent needs among in-camp IDPs and returnees. This difference may be due to differences in methodologies, for details on our methodology please refer to Annex 1, and find the HNO here.

[6] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH) LIVING STANDARDS GAP

MCNA | 2020
IRAQ

% of households with a WASH LSG:[1] 15%

# of households with a WASH LSG:[2] 886,223

% of households per WASH LSG severity score:

5%	Extreme	(severity score 4)	LSG
10%	Severe	(severity score 3)	LSG
31%	Stress	(severity score 2)	
54%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)	

% of households with a WASH LSG, per population group:

IDP in camp	47%	
IDP out of camp	9%	
Returnee	14%	

The main drivers of WASH LSGs were found to be:

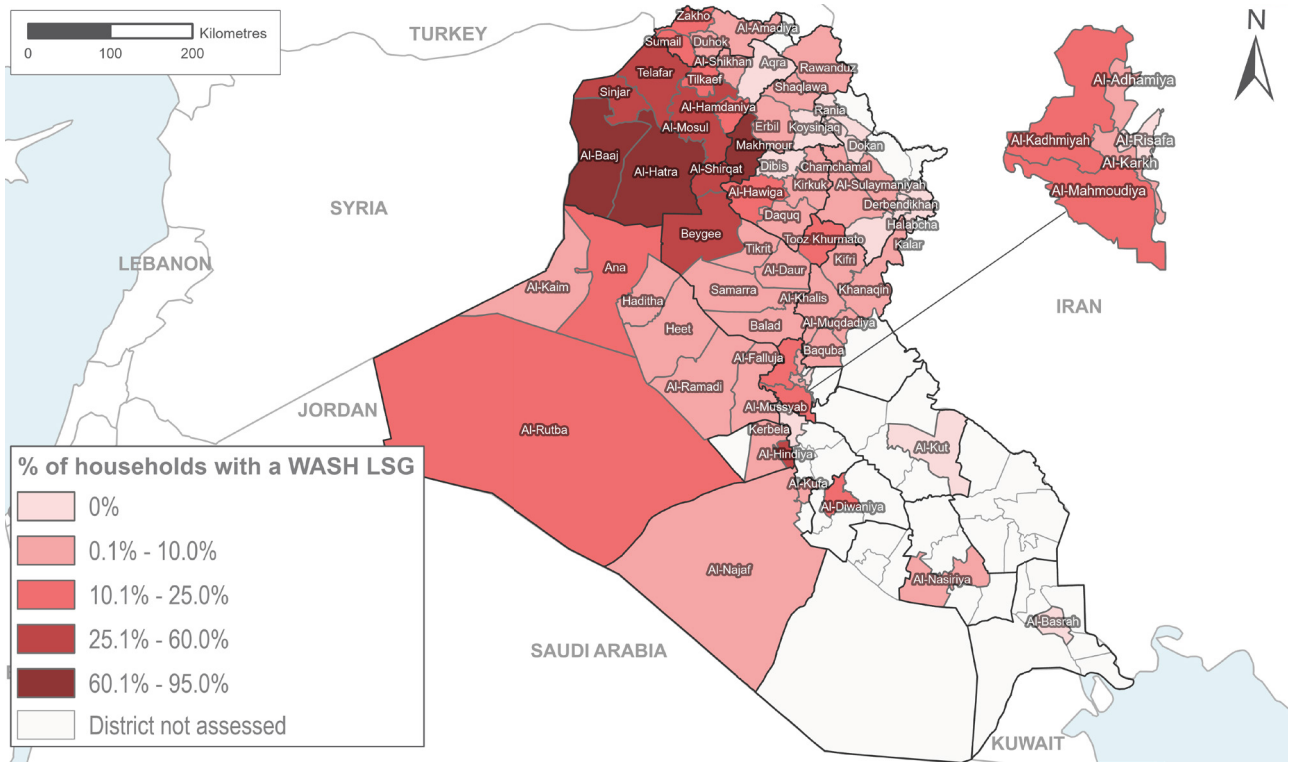
- % of households without access to improved functional sanitation facilities (9%);
- % of households without access to an improved water source (5%), and;
- % of households without access to a sufficient quantity of water for drinking and domestic purposes (3%).

% of households per WASH LSG severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3	4
IDP in camp	34%	19%	44%	3%
IDP out of camp	56%	34%	5%	4%
Returnee	55%	31%	8%	6%

3% of households were found to have a WASH LSG and to be vulnerable.[3]

% of households with a WASH LSG, per district:



[1]The WASH LSG indicator consists of the following indicators: % of households without access to an improved water source; % of households without access to a sufficient quantity of water for drinking and domestic purposes; % of households without access to improved functional sanitation facilities, and % of households treating their water prior to drinking.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

[3] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.

HEALTH LIVING STANDARDS GAP

% of households with a Health LSG:[1] 14%

# of households with a Health LSG:[2] 827,141

% of households per Health LSG severity score:[3]

14%	Severe	(severity score 3)	LSG
38%	Stress	(severity score 2)	
48%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)	

% of households with a Health LSG, per population group:

IDP in camp	15%	
IDP out of camp	14%	
Returnee	13%	

The main drivers of Health LSGs were found to be:

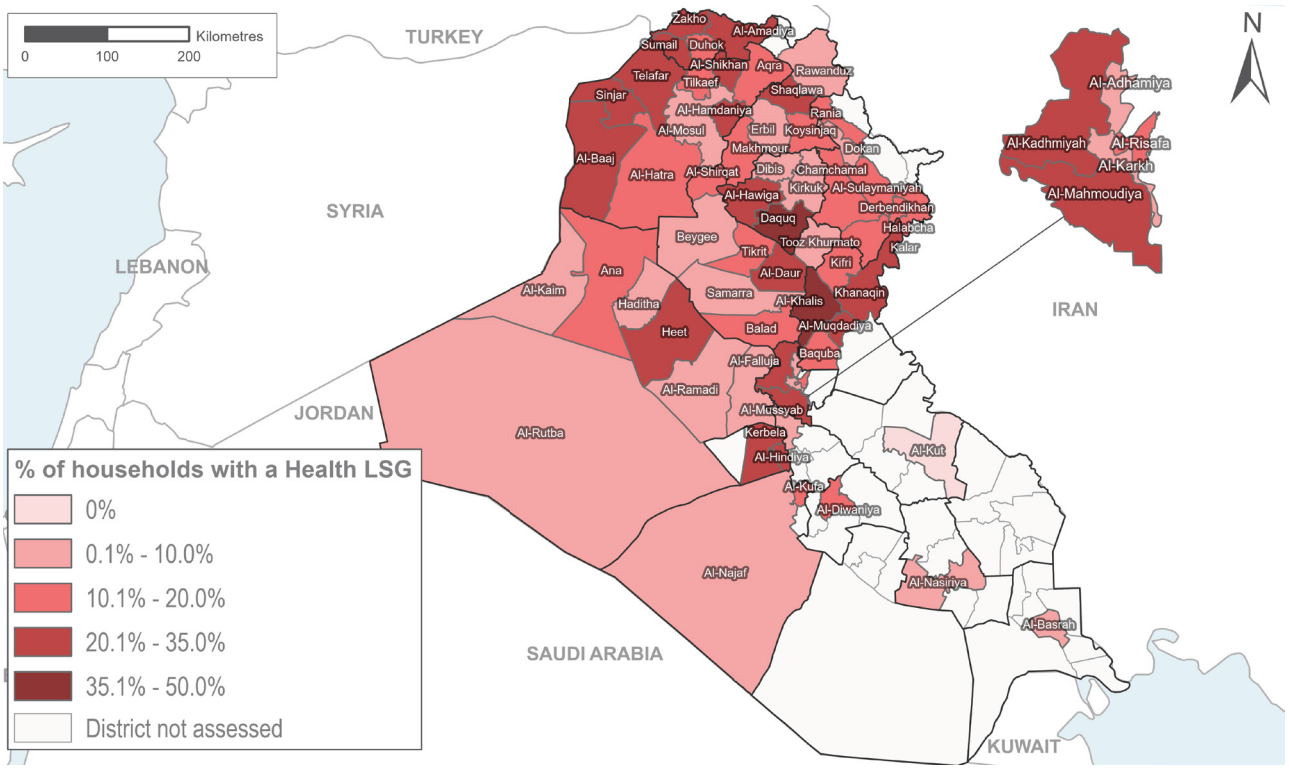
- % of households who experienced difficulties when accessing health services in the 3 months prior to data collection (38%);
- % of households reporting that women of reproductive age (12-49) have no access to specialised reproductive health services (29%), and;
- % of households spending more than 20% of their total expenditure on healthcare (29%).

% of households per Health LSG severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3
IDP in camp	38%	48%	15%
IDP out of camp	57%	29%	14%
Returnee	47%	39%	13%

6% of households were found to have a Health LSG and to be vulnerable.[4]

% of households with a Health LSG, per district:



[1] The health LSG composite indicator consists of the following indicators: % of households that cannot access primary healthcare within one hour's walk from dwellings; % of households reporting that women of reproductive age (12-49) have no access to specialised reproductive health services; % of households spending more than 20% of their total expenditure on healthcare, and % of households who have experienced difficulties when accessing health services in the 3 months prior to data collection.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

[3] The Health indicators included in the MCNA VIII do not provide insight into "extreme" household needs. As such, the maximum severity score used in this analysis framework for Health is 3 ("severe"). Note that this does not imply that there are no extreme health needs in Iraq.

[4] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.

SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI) LIVING STANDARDS GAP

% of households with a Shelter & NFI LSG:[1] 24%

# of households with a Shelter & NFI LSG:[2] 1,417,955

% of households per Shelter & NFI LSG severity score:

10%	Extreme	(severity score 4)	LSG
14%	Severe	(severity score 3)	LSG
46%	Stress	(severity score 2)	
30%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)	

% of households with a Shelter & NFI LSG, per population group:

IDP in camp	97%	
IDP out of camp	19%	
Returnee	19%	

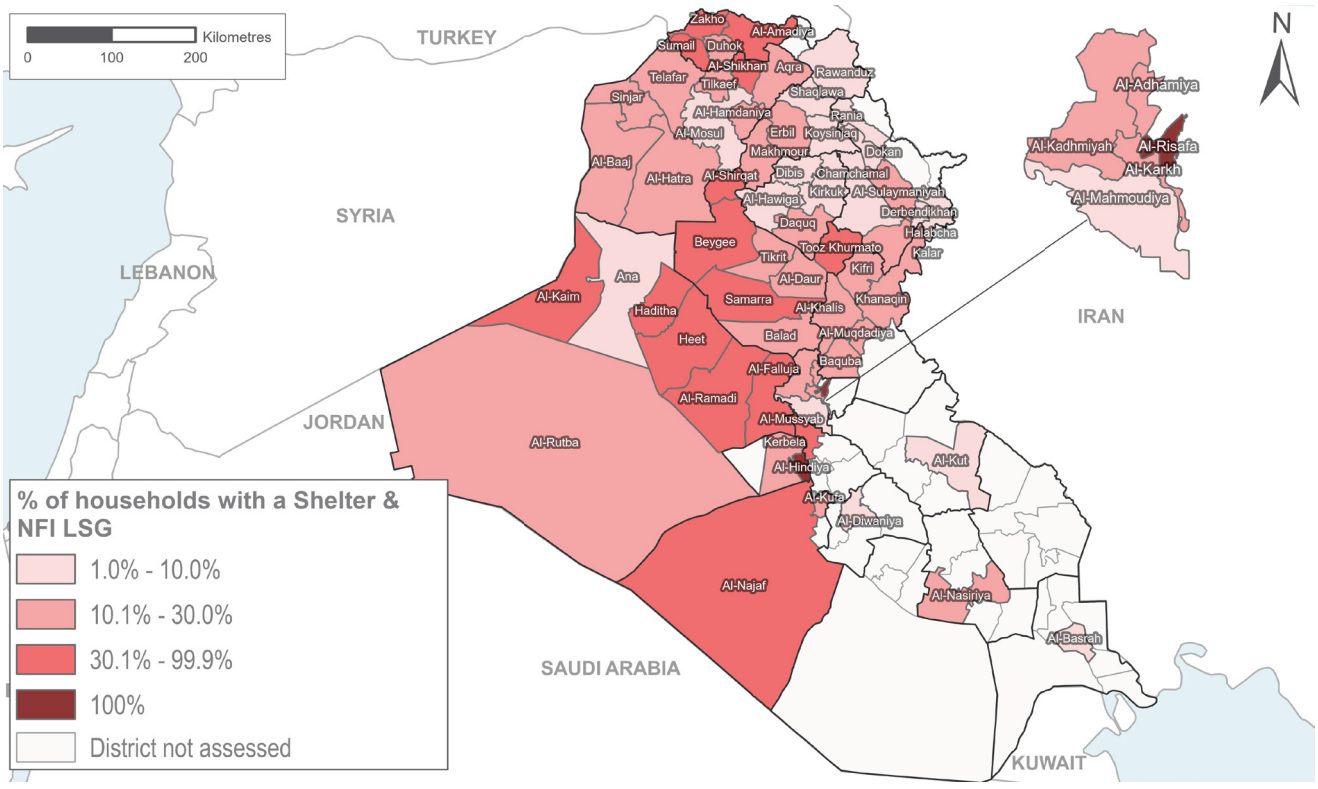
The main drivers of Shelter & NFI LSGs were found to be:
- % of households needing basic NFI items (67%);
- % of households reporting at least 2 shelter improvements needed (16%), and;
- % of households living under critical shelter conditions (10%).[3]

% of households per Shelter & NFI LSG severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3	4
IDP in camp	1%	2%	0%	97%
IDP out of camp	19%	63%	8%	11%
Returnee	35%	46%	15%	4%

5% of households were found to have a Shelter & NFI LSG and to be vulnerable.[4]

% of households with a Shelter & NFI LSG, per district:



[1] The shelter & NFI composite indicator consists of the following indicators: % of households reporting at least two shelter improvements; % of households needing basic NFI items, and % of households living under critical shelter conditions (aggregated indicator).
[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).
[3] Critical shelters include tents (in and out of camps), unfinished and abandoned structures, make-shift shelters, and non-residential, public, and religious buildings.
[4] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.

EDUCATION LIVING STANDARDS GAP

MCNA I 2020
IRAQ

% of households with an Education LSG:[1] 13%

# of households with an Education LSG:[2] 768,059

% of households per Education LSG severity score: [3]

13%	Severe	(severity score 3)
12%	Stress	(severity score 2)
75%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

LSG

% of households with an Education LSG, per population group:

IDP in camp	24%
IDP out of camp	26%
Returnee	9%

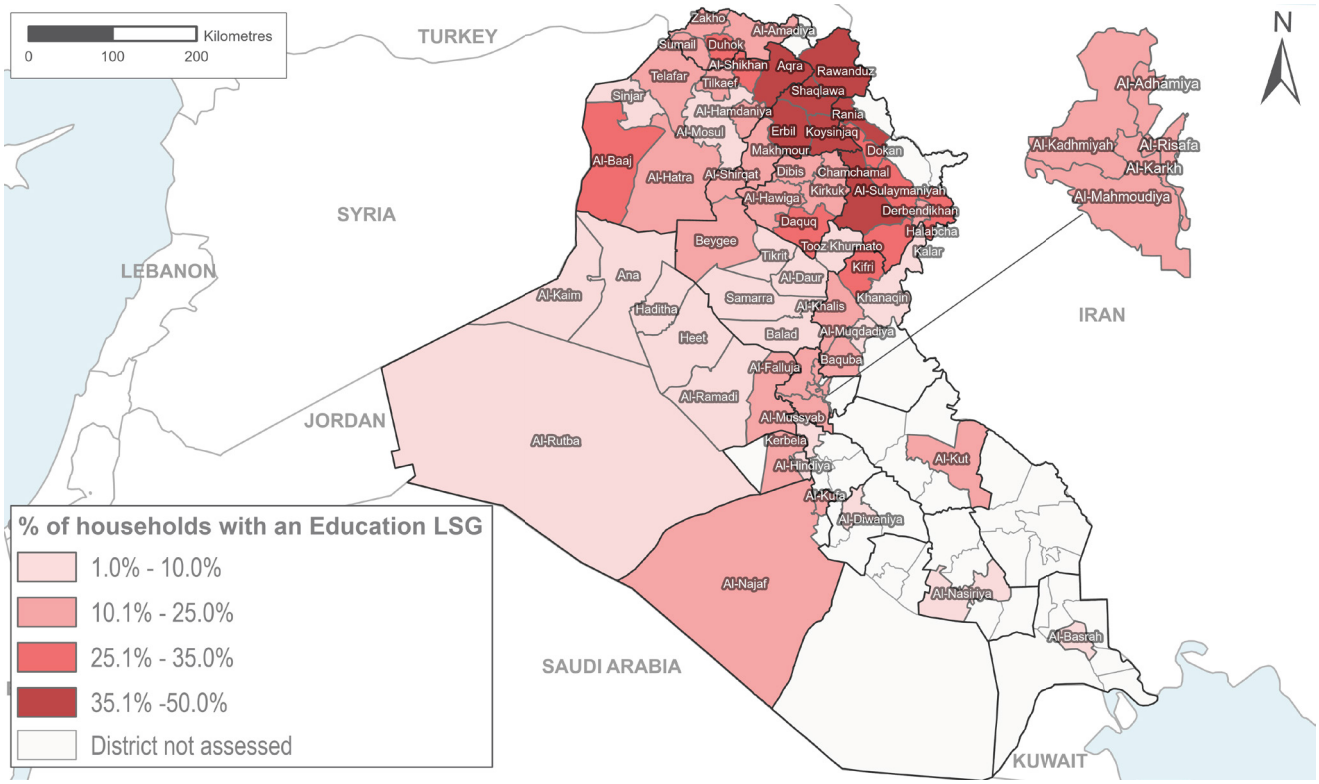
The main drivers of Education LSGs were found to be:
- % of households reporting barriers to education related to a lack of household resources (31%);
- % of households without a functioning primary or secondary school within 2km of their dwellings (13%), and;
- % of households with at least one child not attending formal or informal education regularly (at least 4 days a week) prior to the COVID-19 outbreak (13%).

% of households per Education LSG severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3
IDP in camp	72%	3%	24%
IDP out of camp	59%	14%	26%
Returnee	79%	12%	9%

3% of households were found to have an Education LSG and to be vulnerable.[4]

% of households with an Education LSG, per district:



[1] The education LSG composite consists of the following indicators: % of households reporting barriers to education related to a lack of household resources; % of households with at least one child not attending formal or informal education regularly (at least 4 days a week) prior to the COVID-19 outbreak; % of households with no child attending formal or informal education regularly (at least 4 days a week) prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, and % of households without a functioning primary or secondary school within 2km of their dwellings.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

[3] The Education indicators included in the MCNA VIII do not provide insight into "extreme" household needs. As such the maximum severity score used in this analysis framework for education is 3 ("severe").

[4] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.

PROTECTION LIVING STANDARDS GAP

% of households with a Protection LSG:[1] 59%

# of households with a Protection LSG:[2] 3,485,807

% of households per Protection LSG severity score:

6%	Extreme	(severity score 4)	LSG
53%	Severe	(severity score 3)	
0%	Stress	(severity score 2)	
41%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)	

% of households with a Protection LSG, per population group:

IDP in camp	58%	
IDP out of camp	47%	
Returnee	61%	

The main drivers of Protection LSGs were found to be:

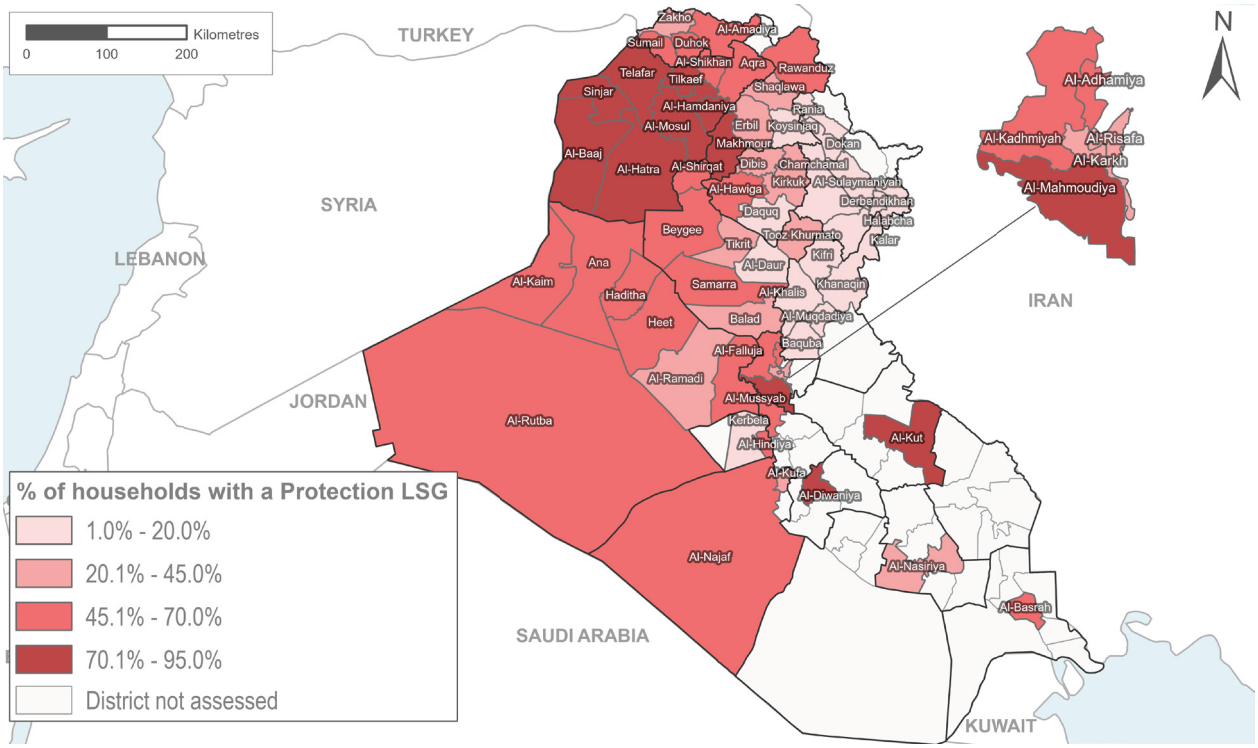
- % of households missing at least one key household or individual document (54%); [3]
- % of households lacking secure tenure (39%), and;
- % of households with at least one person under 18 years old working (7%).

% of households per Protection LSG severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3	4
IDP in camp	42%	0%	51%	7%
IDP out of camp	53%	0%	40%	7%
Returnee	39%	0%	55%	6%

12% of households were found to have a Protection LSG and to be vulnerable.[4]

% of households with a Protection LSG, per district:



[1] The protection LSG composite consists of the following indicators: % of households with at least one person under 18 years old working; % of households with presence of child marriage; % of households reporting at least one member with psychosocial distress (proxy data with behaviour change); % women and girls who avoid areas because they feel unsafe; % of households missing at least one key household or individual document; % of households lacking secure tenure; % of households reporting a risk of eviction; % of children (< 18 years)not living with the household at the time of data collection, and % of households having experienced a safety or security incident in the 30 days prior to data collection.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

[3] Key documents include Public Distribution System (PDS) card, ID card (or unified ID card), nationality certificate (or unified ID card), and birth certificates for children.

[4] See p.12 on pre-existing vulnerabilities for more information.

CAPACITY GAP

% of households with a Capacity Gap but without a LSG:[1] 1%

# of households with a Capacity Gap but without a LSG:[2] 59,081

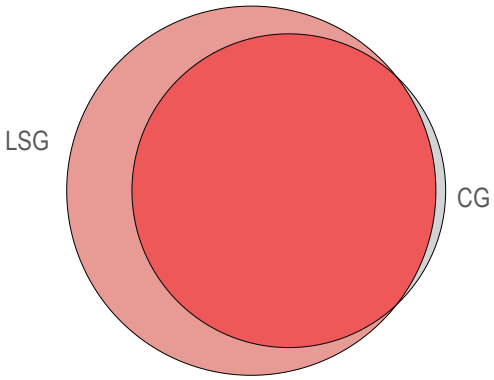
% of households with a Capacity Gap (CG), per population group:

IDP in camp	80%
IDP out of camp	75%
Returnee	61%

% of households with a CG and multi-sectoral needs, per population group:

IDP in camp	80%
IDP out of camp	73%
Returnee	59%

90% of households with multi-sectoral needs and/or a CG:

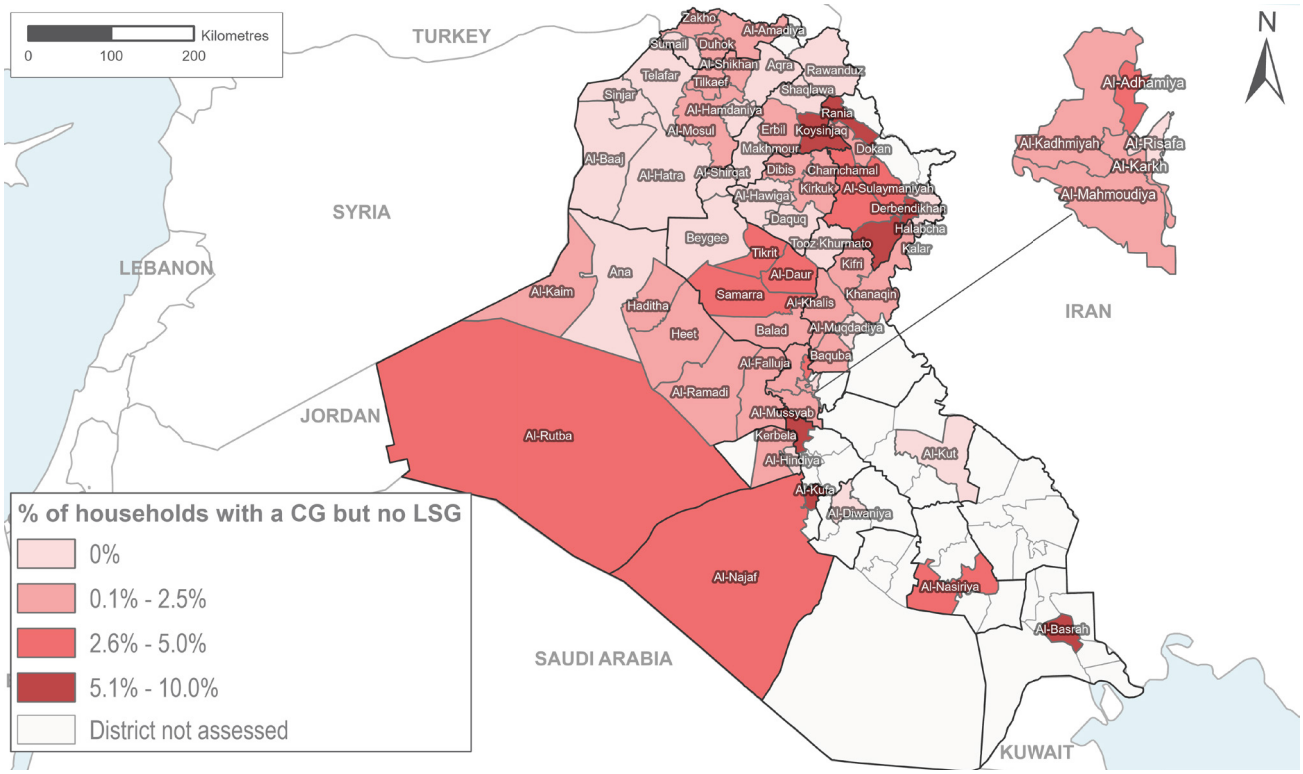


26% of households with multi-sectoral need but no CG;

63% of households with multi-sectoral needs and/or a CG;

1% of households with no multi-sectoral need but a CG;[3]

% of households with a CG but no LSG at the time of data collection, per district:



[1] The Capacity Gap composite indicator consists of the following indicators: % of households taking on debt to afford healthcare, food, education, or basic household expenditures; % of households relying on humanitarian assistance as their main source of income; % of households relying on 'crisis' or 'emergency' coping strategies to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food. Coping strategies are categorised in line with the Livelihood Coping Strategies Index as a standardized tool to measure behavioral responses to food insecurity. Crisis strategies include selling productive assets and reducing non-food expenditures, while emergency strategies include adults engaging in risky behaviour and children contributing to household income.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

[3] The remaining 10% encompasses households with no multi-sectoral need and no CG.

PRE-EXISTING VULNERABILITIES

% of households with multi-sectoral needs and vulnerable:[1] 20%

# of households with multi-sectoral needs and vulnerable:[2] 1,181,629

% of households per vulnerability severity score:

9%	Extreme	(severity score 4)
11%	Severe	(severity score 3)
19%	Stress	(severity score 2)
50%	No or minimal	(severity score 1)

Vulnerable

% of households with multi-sectoral needs and vulnerable, per population group:

IDP in camp	33%
IDP out of camp	28%
Returnee	18%

The main drivers of vulnerability were found to be:

- % of households missing at least one key household or individual document (54%);
- % of households not intending to return to their area of origin because of security/safety concerns (52%), and;
- % of households with at least one member reporting a chronic health condition (41%).

% of households with multi-sectoral needs per vulnerability severity score, per population group:

	1	2	3	4
IDP in camp	42%	25%	20%	13%
IDP out of camp	38%	24%	16%	12%
Returnee	53%	17%	10%	8%

% of households with a LSG, per sector and vulnerability profile :

% of households....	Education	Livelihoods	Food Security	Health	Protection	Shelter	WASH	At least 1 MSNI	CG
....with a single female head of household	17%	71%	5%	12%	60%	22%	12%	89%	67%
...with at least one member above the age of 60	17%	63%	3%	24%	51%	19%	15%	85%	58%
... with at least one member reporting a disability	26%	73%	6%	44%	65%	27%	15%	96%	71%
... with at least one individual with a chronic health condition	16%	67%	4%	19%	58%	21%	17%	88%	62%
... missing at least one key household or individual document[3]	12%	66%	3%	15%	100%	22%	17%	96%	64%
... not intending to return to their area of origin because of security/safety concerns[4]	28%	80%	8%	16%	40%	41%	13%	94%	80%
... without access to soap	17%	76%	7%	14%	35%	21%	19%	95%	73%

[1] The Vulnerability composite indicator consists of the following indicators: % of households with at least one member reporting a disability (i.e. experiencing a lot of difficulties or unable to see, hear, walk/climb steps, remember/concentrate, conduct self-care, and/or communicate); % of single female-headed households (i.e. separated, divorced, widowed); % of households with at least one member reporting a chronic health condition; % of households missing at least one key household or individual document; % of households not intending to return to their area of origin because of security/safety concerns; % of households without access to soap, and % of households with at least one member above the age of 60.

[2] Figure obtained by applying the percentage on population figure from IOM Displacement Tracker (October 2020) and CCCM Formal Camp Masterlist (September 2020).

[3] Key documents include PDS card, ID card (or unified ID card), nationality certificate (or unified ID card) and birth certificates for children.

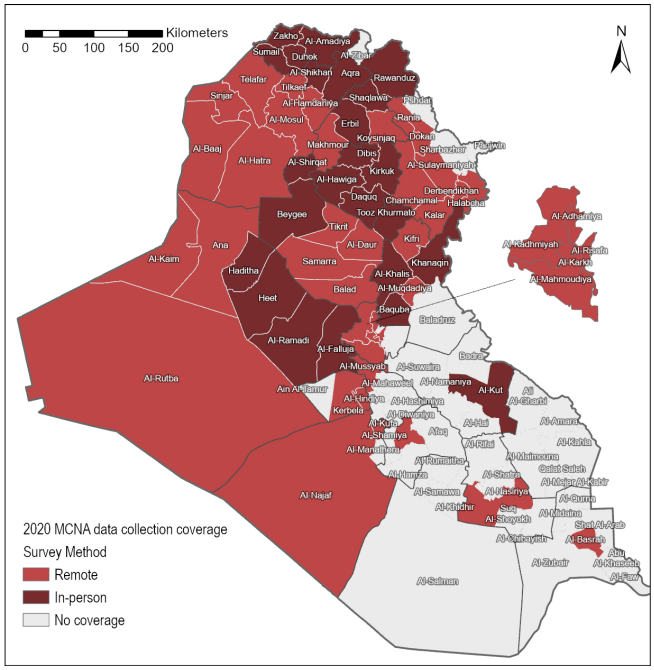
[4] IDP households who reported that they did not intend to return in the 3 or 12 months following data collection were asked a multiple choice question about their specific reason as to why they do not intend to return to their area of origin.

ANNEX 1: METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

This Annex provides further information on the methodology used for the MCNA, including: (1) summary of the methodology and the sampling methods in particular; (2) definitions of key concepts, and (3) severity scale.

METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The MCNA VIII is informed by a nationwide household-level survey, for which 9,634 returnee, out-of camp IDP, and in-camp IDP households were interviewed between mid-July and mid-September 2020. This includes 2,547 interviews with IDP households living in 40 formal camps throughout Iraq. Due to the serious health risks that COVID-19 posed to both enumerators and respondents, and due to the persisting movements and access restrictions related to government containment measures, data for the MCNA VIII had to be collected through a hybrid of face-to-face and phone-based interviews, and could not cover all districts in Iraq. In the districts that could be surveyed in-person (24/62), a two-staged stratified cluster sampling approach was employed to ensure that the findings for returnee and out-of-camp IDP households in these districts are statistically representative with a level of confidence of 90% and a margin of error of 10%. However, in all assessed formal IDP camps and in districts where health risks and/ or movement or access restrictions prevented face-to-face interviews (38/62), a non-probability purposive quota sampling approach with a minimum target of 60 surveys per population group was adopted. Due to the non-randomised sampling methodology, findings in these strata are not statistically representative with a known level of precision and have to be considered as indicative only.



Thematically, questions on education, food security, health, livelihoods, protection, shelter and NFI, and WASH were covered in the MCNA VIII survey tool. Note that, in line with the structure of the Iraqi cluster system, the protection component included questions relating to general protection, child protection, gender-based violence, mine action, and housing, land & property. In addition to the sectoral components, multi-sectoral themes were covered to gain a better understanding of the living conditions of the surveyed populations, including topics such as movement intentions, coping strategies, accountability to affected populations, and demographics. Further details on the methodology and scope of the MCNA VIII are available in the Terms of Reference.

DEFINITIONS

Living Standard Gap (LSG): signifies an unmet need in a given sector, where the LSG severity score is 3 or higher.

Severity: signifies the "intensity" of needs, using a scale that ranges from 1 (minimal/no needs) to 4 (extreme needs).

Capacity Gap (CG): signifies that negative and unsustainable coping strategies are used to meet needs. Households not categorised as having an LSG may be maintaining their living standards through the use of negative coping strategies (e.g. taking on debt).

Pre-existing vulnerabilities: the underlying processes or conditions that influence the degree of the shock and influence exposure, vulnerability or capacity, which could subsequently exacerbate the impact of a crisis on those affected by the vulnerabilities.

Magnitude: corresponds to the overall number or percentage of households in need.

SEVERITY SCALE

The severity scale is inspired by the draft Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF), an analytical framework being developed at the global level aiming to enhance understanding of needs of affected populations. It measures a progressive deterioration of a household's situation, towards the worst possible humanitarian outcome.

While the JIAF severity scale includes 5 classifications ranging from 1 (none/ minimal) to 5 (catastrophic), for the purpose of the MCNA in Iraq, only a scale of 1 (none/ minimal) to 4 (extreme) is used. This is because data that is needed for a score of 5 (catastrophic) is primarily at area level (e.g. mortality rates, malnutrition prevalence, burden of disease) which could not be factored into this household level analysis. Additionally, as global guidelines on the exact definitions of each class are yet to be finalised, and given the response implications of classifying a household or area as class 5 (catastrophic), REACH is not in a position to independently verify if a class 5 is occurring.

ANNEX 2: IDENTIFICATION OF LSG AND CG

The LSG for a given sector is produced by aggregating the reported unmet needs indicators per sector. For the 2020 MSNA, a simple aggregation methodology has been identified, building on the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)[1] aggregation approach. Using this method, each household is assigned a "deprivation" score according to its deprivations in the component indicators. The deprivation score of each household is obtained by calculating the percentage of the deprivations experienced, so that the deprivation score for each household lies between 0 and 100. The method relies on the categorisation of each indicator on a binary scale: does ("1") / does not ("0") have a gap. The threshold for how a household is considered to have a particular gap or not is determined in advance for each indicator. The 2020 MCNA aggregation methodology outlined below can be described as "MPI-like", using the steps of the MPI approach to determine an aggregated needs severity score, with the addition of "critical indicators" that determine the higher severity scores. The section below outlines guidance on producing the aggregation using household-level data.

1) Identify indicators that measure needs ('gaps') for each sector, capturing the following key dimensions: accessibility, availability, quality, use, and awareness. Set binary thresholds: does ("1") / does not ("0") have a gap;

2) Identify critical indicators that, on their own, indicate a gap in the sector overall;

3) Identify individual indicator scores (0 or 1) for each household, once data has been collected;

4) Calculate the severity score for each household, based on the following decision tree (tailored to each sector);

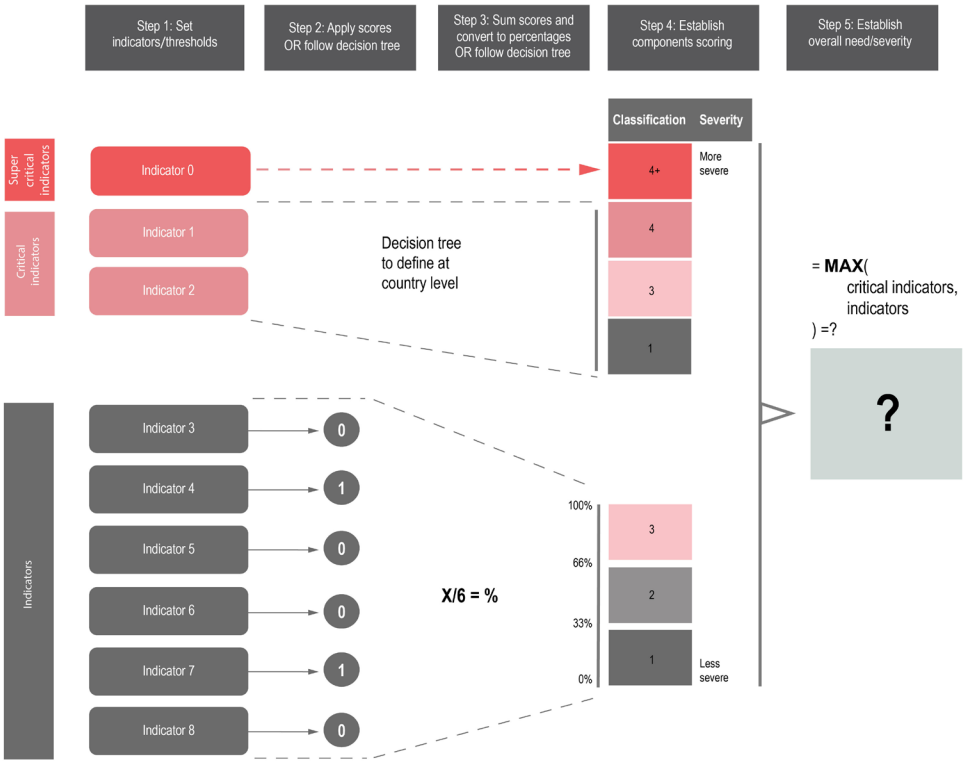
a. "Super" critical indicator(s): could lead to a 4+ if an extreme situation is found for the household. This type of indicator is not used in Iraq;

b. Critical indicators: using a decision tree approach, a severity class is identified based on a discontinued scale of 1 to 4 (1, 3, 4) depending on the scores of each of the critical indicators;

c. Non-critical indicators: the scores of all non-critical indicators are summed up and converted into a percentage of possible total (e.g. 3 out of 4 = 75%) to identify a severity class, and;

d. The final score/severity class is obtained by retaining the highest score generated by either the super critical, critical or non-critical indicators, as outlined in the figure 1 below;

Figure 1: Example on how to identify a LSG per sector with scoring approach



5) Calculate the proportion of the population with a final severity score of 3 and above, per sector. Having a severity score of 3 and above in a sector is considered as having a LSG in that sector;

6) Identify households that do not have a LSG but that do have a CG;

a. Identify individual indicators scores (0 or 1) for all CG indicators, amongst households with a severity score of 1 or 2, and;

b. If any CG indicator has a score of 1, the household is categorised as having a CG.

7) Project the percentage findings onto the population data that was used to build the sample, with accurate weighting to ensure representativeness.

[1] For further details, please refer to the University of Oxford's article on the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) and aggregation approach.

ANNEX 3: ESTIMATING OVERALL SEVERITY OF NEEDS

The Multi-Sectoral Needs Index (MSNI) is a measure of the household's overall severity of humanitarian needs (expressed on a scale of 1 – 4 in Iraq), based on the highest severity of sectoral LSG severity scores identified in each household.

The MSNI is determined through the following steps:

1) The severity of each of the sectoral LSGs is calculated per household, as outlined in the Annex 2.

2) A final severity score (MSNI) is determined for each household based on the highest severity of sectoral LSGs identified in each household. As shown in the example in Figure 2 below, household (HH) 1 has a final MSNI of 4 because that is the highest severity score, across all LSGs within that household.

Key limitation: regardless of whether a household has a very severe LSG in just one sector (e.g. WASH for HH 2 below) or co-occurring severe LSGs across multiple sectors (e.g. Food Security, Health, WASH, Protection for HH 1 below), their final MSNI score will be the same (4). While this might make sense from a broader response planning perspective (if a household has an extreme need in even one sector, this may warrant humanitarian intervention regardless of the co-occurrence with other sectoral needs), additional analysis should be done to understand such differences in magnitude of severity between households. In order to support this, additional analysis outputs have been produced, as shown on page 3.

Figure 2: Examples of MSNI scores per household based on sectoral analysis findings

	Sectoral LSG Severity Score						Final MSNI
	Food Sec	Health	WASH	Protection	Education	Etc.	
HH 1	**4**	**4**	**4**	**4**	3	3	**4**
HH 2	2	2	**4**	2	1	1	**4**
HH 3	3	3	3	**4+**	2	1	**4+**
Etc.	2	**3**	1	1	2	1	**3**

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